

Application No. 10/723,974
Amendment dated 9 September 2005
Reply to Office Action dated 9 March 2005

Attorney Docket No. 5703-00059

Amendments to the Specification:

(with reference to line numbers printed on the application as filed)

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, at line 14 with the following:

The present invention broadly comprises an adapter for facilitating mounting of a retainer for an inflatable safety restraint device in a motor vehicle. In other, related aspects the invention includes an airbag housing and inflatable restraint system. Referring to Figure 2, there is shown a housing comprising an airbag retainer 10 and adapter 14 according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention. Retainer 10 is preferably constructed from a plurality of panels, ~~two of which are visible designated in Figure 2 and numbered as 12a and, 12b, 12c and 12d,~~ attached to form a substantially rectangular receptacle for receipt and storage of an inflatable restraint device. Various mounting members, fasteners, etc. may be attached to, or formed integrally with retainer 10 to facilitate attachment with, for example, the vehicle cross car beam. For example, a mounting member 17 may be positioned on panel 12a, allowing fasteners attached thereto to be engaged with a vehicle cross car beam. The panels comprising retainer 10 are preferably further adapted to facilitate attachment with a gas generator device or inflator. Embodiments are contemplated wherein a plurality of panels, for example two end panels and two side panels, are attached to form a substantially rectangular retainer body. Alternative embodiments are also contemplated wherein the retainer is manufactured from a lesser number of panels, formed integrally from one or more pieces of stock, as well as embodiments wherein the retainer comprises a non-rectangular shape. All the component parts of the present invention are manufactured from known materials and by known processes.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, at line 32 with the following:

Utilizing the presently disclosed plastic adapter ~~allows engineers to provides for molding~~ single piece plastic units for mounting a variety of retainers in a variety of vehicles. The excess parts and labor of manufacturing a specific mounting assembly for specific vehicles is eliminated. Moreover, various bolt hole patterns can be easily formed in **flange 15**, allowing the adapter to be easily changed to adapt to various mounting arrangements, either by altering the molded adapter design itself or by retrofitting existing adapters. Further still, the shape of the adapter can be varied by molding adapters having different structures, to conform, for example, with a shape of the underside of an instrument panel. The plastic adapter/metal retainer configuration can be designed to closely fit around obstructions, complex surfaces, or nearby parts, and reduces the weight of the assembly by substituting plastic for parts formerly constructed from metal.

Please insert the following three (3) paragraphs after line 12 of page 5:

Referring to Figure 4, a housing 100' for an inflatable restraint system 30 comprises a plurality of retainer panels 12a-d attachable to form a substantially rectangular retainer body 12 for receipt of a folded inflatable restraint cushion 28, wherein at least one of the panels 12a includes a plurality of projecting hooks 22; a plastic adapter 14 comprising wall portions 14a-e positionable around the retainer body 10, and a flange 15 projecting substantially perpendicular to the wall portions 14a-e; wherein at least one of the wall portions 14a includes a plurality of apertures 20 for receipt of the hooks 22, the apertures 20 having widths greater than a width of the hooks 22 to allow relative movement therebetween.

Furthermore, an inflatable restraint system 30 for a motor vehicle 32 comprises a retainer 10 with a plurality of attachable panels 12a-d and a plurality of attachment hooks 22 projecting from at least one of the panels 12a; an inflatable restraint device 28 positioned in the retainer 10; a gas generator 34 operable to provide an inflation gas to the inflatable restraint device 28; and an adapter 14 for attaching the retainer 10 to a vehicle instrument panel 36, the adapter 14 comprising a peripheral wall 14a with a plurality of apertures 20 for receipt of the hooks 22, and a flange 15 projecting substantially perpendicular to the peripheral wall 14a.

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A method of mounting an airbag retainer 10 for an inflatable occupant restraint system 30 in a motor vehicle 32 comprises the steps of: molding a plastic adapter 14 having a mounting flange 15 and at least one sidewall 14a-e depending from the flange 15, wherein the sidewall 14a-e is adapted to attach with an airbag retainer 10; attaching the molded plastic adapter 14 to an airbag retainer 10 for housing a folded airbag 28; and mounting the airbag retainer 10 in a vehicle 36 via an engagement of the mounting flange 15 with mounting members in an instrument panel 32 in the vehicle 36.

Please insert the following paragraph after line 19 of page 5:

What is claimed is: